

Message

From: Chenier, Dan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2F5ED2EE52DB463BBC3EDB125074B21E-CHENIERDA]
Sent: 2/16/2022 5:37:41 PM
To: 'Regan Katz' [rk@ottawatitans.com]; Moodie, Derrick [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1a00dceeff904a64b2812853cb778517-moodiede]; Farias, Amanda [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eeedb3c26d346448284cab1a39dfb97-fariasam]
CC: Sam Katz [samkatz@goldeyes.com]; Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=72af617760a64b719c07b01bf2fe243c-watsonji]
Subject: RE: Ottawa Titans Parking Lot

Mr. Katz,

Responding to your follow-up inquiry, I agree with you that the initial request from police contemplated a weekend use of the lot to facilitate access to downtown without increasing congestion with too many trucks. At that time, the request did not reflect a prolonged stay beyond the weekend or that the use would evolve from the intended park and ride to a full occupation and encampment. The staff who dealt through our Emergency Command Center on this request were only asked to inquire about the park and ride use of the site and we share your concern and frustration that the actual use turned into much more than what the request contemplated.

The City and police have been working together to resolve the occupation at several locations. As reported publicly, this has included discussions with representatives of the occupation to convince them to remove their vehicles in the core and at the stadium. There has been some success through negotiations but we recognize that more needs to be done. Recent emergency declarations at the municipal, Provincial and Federal levels have provided authorities with more tools to address the problem and additional police resources are being provided to assist with enforcement. Though the interim police chief has assured the Police Board and the City that a plan is in place to resolve the occupation, details of specific actions and timing are not being made public for security reasons. Accordingly, I do not have and cannot provide you with a reliable timeframe for the removal of the vehicles from the Coventry site but remain hopeful for a peaceful and permanent resolution very soon.

Regards,

Dan Chenier
GM/DG
Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services
Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des installations
City of Ottawa/Ville d'Ottawa (613)580-2424 Ext 24295

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From: Regan Katz <rk@ottawatitans.com>
Sent: February 16, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Chenier, Dan <Dan.Chenier@ottawa.ca>; Moodie, Derrick <Derrick.Moodie@ottawa.ca>; Farias, Amanda <Amanda.Farias@ottawa.ca>

Cc: Sam Katz <samkatz@goldeyes.com>; Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire) <Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca>

Subject: RE: Ottawa Titans Parking Lot

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Dear Mr. Chenier,

Thank you for the prompt reply to my letter of February 14. However, you've raised additional questions which I believe motivate the need for further clarification.

To clarify for accuracy, the Ottawa Titans were asked for use of the lot by the City on behalf of the Ottawa Police for the weekend (January 28-30). The request was in an effort to facilitate park and ride to downtown for the demonstrators in order to alleviate congestion in the downtown area. The request was approved with the understanding it would not have any negative impact on the team, with the impression the police were policing the area in a most constructive matter. No discussion occurred with respect to overnight use or for a period longer than the weekend.

Furthermore, responding to media as you have does not protect the image of the Ottawa Titans against the backdrop of the occupation, nor does it adequately stress that the Ottawa Titans are not the entity who facilitated the encampment to take place on our site. The reply has been in response to media well after the damage to the Titans was already done; which is clear from the social media and messages we have received in the past two weeks.

As we are now 19 days into this lot occupation, could you please share with us what it means when you say every attempt is being made to remove them from our lot, and the anticipated timeframe for the removal of vehicles? I appreciate your efforts and no doubt your understandable high level of frustration with these unique ongoing circumstances, but I am also confident you recognize our situation and the "fall out" from this occupation which we have tried to minimize as best as possible for our employees, our fan base, and for all our good neighbours in the immediate area.

Your response to these questions would be much appreciated at your earliest convenience and I welcome the chance to discuss this further, should you wish. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Regan Katz
Vice President, Ottawa Titans Baseball Club

From: Chenier, Dan <Dan.Chenier@ottawa.ca>

Sent: February 14, 2022 2:26 PM

To: Regan Katz <rk@ottawatitans.com>; Moodie, Derrick <Derrick.Moodie@ottawa.ca>; Farias, Amanda <Amanda.Farias@ottawa.ca>

Cc: Sam Katz <samkatz@goldeyes.com>; Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire) <Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca>

Subject: RE: Ottawa Titans Parking Lot

Mr. Katz,

Thank you for your message. We recognize and regret the negative impact that this occupation has had on neighborhoods across the city and targeted sites like the stadium parking lot. Every attempt is being made to remove the trucks and address the ongoing disturbances.

In terms of the use of the lot, the City was asked by Ottawa Police to allow it, and from the initial request it is clear that the intent was to allow trucks arriving to participate in the demonstration to park at the stadium to avoid congestion in the core. The thought was that they could access the adjacent light rail service to get downtown. The attached January 25 correspondence seeking your concurrence for the use of the parking lot clearly identifies that the lot would be used to hold trucks that are part of the demonstration group. The intent, as expressed by police, was that this would be for the weekend only. At that time it was not anticipated by anyone that this would go on for so long, and that the lot would be occupied beyond the initial weekend.

With respect to making it known that Ottawa Police and the City are responsible to allowing the use of the stadium parking lot, we have responded to several media inquiries with the messaging below that acknowledges the City as the decision maker in allowing use of the lot. As media and public inquiries continue to come in, we are reiterating that the City is responsible for authorizing the initial plan for short-term use of the lot, for returning it to its intended use, and for any repairs required after the occupants leave.

Media Statement released to several outlets:

“The City of Ottawa owns the baseball stadium at 300 Coventry Road. The City’s Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services (RCFS) department facilitated access to RCGT Park for overflow vehicles at the direction of Ottawa Police Services (OPS) to alleviate congestion in the downtown core. The City did not grant a permit to organizers of the demonstration and the intent was not for long-term/overnight stay.

While in use, the City and OPS have conducted enforcement activities at the baseball stadium. Recently, Police, Ottawa Fire Services and By-law worked together to remove containers of fuel that were being stored there illegally. Police are also actively working to remove the encampment from the site and progress is being made. Just today, Police negotiated the departure of several trucks.

As owners of the facility, the City will be responsible for actioning any damages to the parking lot.

Ottawa City Council recently passed a motion (see attached) to support ongoing discussion with other levels of government on how the City can best support local businesses and employees impacted by the demonstration.”

We recognize that the prolonged unauthorized use of the lot has placed a burden on your operations well beyond what was initially intended by Police or the City, and we are truly sorry that this has impacted your organization to this extent. We remain focused on working with partners and other levels of government to achieve a peaceful resolution to this matter and to returning all parts of the City to normal as soon as possible.

Regards,

Dan Chenier
GM/DG
Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services

Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des installations
City of Ottawa/Ville d'Ottawa (613)580-2424 Ext 24295

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From: Regan Katz <rk@ottawatitans.com>

Sent: February 14, 2022 10:07 AM

To: Chenier, Dan <Dan.Chenier@ottawa.ca>; Moodie, Derrick <Derrick.Moodie@ottawa.ca>; Farias, Amanda <Amanda.Farias@ottawa.ca>

Cc: Sam Katz <samkatz@goldeyes.com>; Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire) <Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca>

Subject: Ottawa Titans Parking Lot

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Hello,

Please see attached letter regarding the parking lot at 300 Coventry Road.

We look forward to your response.

Regan Katz
Vice President



M: 204-291-9966

Ottawa Titans Baseball Club
Ottawa Stadium
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